

Message Text

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46

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01

AEC-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00

FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01

PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

FRB-01 PRS-01 PA-02 USIA-15 /144 W

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R 101409Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7212

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS CARACAS 0332

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN MINES OFFICIAL REAFFIRMS GOV WILL
DEFEND OIL PRICE

1. FERNANDO BAEZ DUARTE, VICE MINISTER OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS,

WAS QUOTED BY CARACAS DAILY JOURNAL JANUARY 9 AS SAYING

"UNITED STATES WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT IN ORDER TO REDUCE OIL

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PRICES AND WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MAINTAIN THEM."

ANSWERING REPORTER'S QUESTIONS AT MIRAFLORES PALACE, BAEZ SAID HIS REPLY WAS DIRECTED AT STATEMENT OF PRESIDENT FORD THAT U.S. WILL USE EVERY MEANS IN ORDER TO REDUCE ITS IMPORTED OIL PRICES, INCLUDING THE LEVYING OF NEW TARIFFS.

2. QUERIED WHETHER VENEZUELA MIGHT REDUCE OIL EXPORTERS IF THE NEW U.S. TRADE BILL IS NOT AMENDED, BAEZ RESPONDED THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ HAS OFTEN SAID VENEZUELA DOES OT USE OIL AS A RETALIATORY WEAPON AGAINST ANYBODY. TRADE LAW SHOULD NOT THEREFORE INFLUENCE VENEZUELAN PRODUCTION, EXPORT OR PRICE POLICIES.

3. BAEZ ALSO SAID THAT CLAUSE IN TRADE BILL DISCRIMINATING AGAINST OPEC COUNTRIES GOES AGAINST AN AGREEMENT REACHED IN UNITED NATIONS WHEREBY THERE WOULD BE NO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT UNITED STATES WOULD RESPECT THIS (UNNAMED) AGREEMENT.
MILLS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PETROLEUM, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CARACA00332
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750012-0111
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750163/aaaacdeb.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2003 by RicharJA>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VENEZUELAN MINES OFFICIAL REAFFIRMS GOV WILL DEFEND OIL PRICE
TAGS: ENRG, VE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006